

60-10872

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9 JUL 1961

Dr. E. R. Fiore
Vice President for Research and Engineering
International Business Machines Corporation
590 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Dr. Fiore:

Your proposal for the establishment of a centralized automatic translation facility has been carefully reviewed both within the Central Intelligence Agency and in the form of the Committee on Documentation of the U.S. Intelligence Board. We have concluded, without prejudice to what our position may be a year hence, that it would be premature to commit this Agency to the program you have outlined at this time.

We are, however, interested in the practical aspects of what your translation machine can produce now. We would like to ascertain from you the feasibility of sending to you for a trial period of two months actual texts for translation on the machine. If this were possible, we would like to have answers to the following questions:

- a. What page volume of Russian texts could you accept during the trial period?
- b. Would you be able to handle the preparation of the texts for input to the machine, i.e., cutting the Flexowriter tape?
- c. What would be the cost (1) if you prepare the texts, or (2) if we make the preparation?

As we would propose to post-edit the text, only one copy of the machine translation would be required.

I suggest that your people communicate directly with

to work out any

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details of our proposal.

(EXECUTIVE REPORT)

We all deeply appreciate the fine work you and your organization are doing in this and related fields. Congratulations on your promotion to Vice President for Research and Engineering.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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DAD/CR: :jec/5 July 1960

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CENTRAL REFERENCE

1 July 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Reply to IBM Proposal for Automatic Translation Facility

REFERENCE: Letter from Dr. Piore to you, dated 20 April 1960 (attached)

This memorandum recommends action on the part of the DCI. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 4 below.

1. The letter under reference and enclosures proposed the establishment of an automatic translation center at a cost of approximately [redacted] over a three year period.

2. This proposal was subjected to detailed analysis and discussion in the Committee on Documentation (CODIB) of the USIB, and by the CIA Advisory Committee on Mechanical Linguistics. The position of both of these bodies is that it would be premature to set up such a center now. There is insufficient evidence available to plan the parameters of an enterprise of this magnitude.

3. We do believe, however, that we should not close the door completely on the IBM proposal. We think that the responses to the questions we have posed will help us accumulate the data base on which planning can be predicated.

4. We recommend that you sign the attached letter to Dr. Piore. The wording of the letter has been coordinated with the CIA Advisory Committee on Mechanical Linguistics and has the unanimous approval of that body.



Concurrences:

[Redacted signature box]

Paul A. Borel, AD/CR

[Redacted signature box]

Robert A. [Redacted] Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003700020054-3

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5 JUL 1960

Date

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44-3879

File

July 26, 1960

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[redacted]
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

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Dear [redacted]

Dr. Piore has asked me to answer Mr. Dulles' letter of 9 July 1960, replying to our proposal for an Automatic Translation Facility. In this letter, Mr. Dulles raises the question of translation for a trial period of two months actual texts.

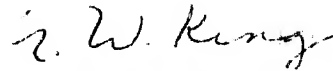
From the beginning of the year we have been processing arbitrary texts in all disciplines, brought to us by various interested parties, and the results have been made generally available. The Department of the Air Force has found these results satisfactory for this stage of development, and are convinced it can be sufficiently improved to meet the principle objective, of procuring intelligence by machine.

We are currently negotiating with USAF a program to continue processing actual text, specifically "Herald of Air Fleet" and " Soviet Aviation", not for the purpose of evaluating the linguistics - as we know that can be improved - but to see what intelligence can be obtained with the developing state of the art.

- 2 -

Since the Government funded portion of our program is under the sponsorship of the Department of the Air Force, and as it is more convenient at this time to deal with only one agency, may I suggest you communicate with RADC if you wish to learn of the results of these studies or propose with them inclusion of your textual material.

Very truly yours,



Gilbert W. King, Director,
Experimental Systems Research

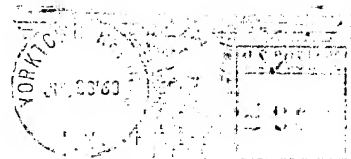
GWK:jms

cc: Mr. Allen W. Dulles

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IBM

Gilbert W. King
Research Laboratory
P. O. Box 218
Yorktown Heights, New York



Mr. Allen W. Dulles
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

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SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	DAD/CR	PWT	5 Aug
2	Asst to DCI	Jmc	
3	ECR		
4			
5			
6			

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE

Remarks:

If you think it necessary to bring this to DCI's attention, will you please give me a note of comment showing what, if any, action you are taking in this matter.

No need to bother DCI. This copy to him was pro forma from Dr. Piro's letter to show that follow-up had been carried out by ISM. We are taking the matter up with PRDC.

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
Asst. to the DCI	2 AUG 1960